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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number Request 2/18/2004 RECEIVED for Filing Date CENTRAL FAX CENTER Continued Examination (RCE) First Named Inventor Backes et al. **Transmittal** 2665 Art Unit Address to: Mail Stop RCE **Philpott** Examiner Name Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 160-052 Attorney Docket Number Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Commund Exemination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s) a. X Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _ Other н **Enclosed** Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Amendment/Reply Other Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) 2. Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required) The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. 3. Fees The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to __ I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. Deposit Account No. 502569 x RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) x Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) Other _ enclosed Check in the amount of \$_ ь. I Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

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